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# Urban District Council of Felling

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## Annual Report

OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### FOR THE YEAR 1956

PELAW-ON-TYNE :  
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works.

1957



Urban District Council of Felling



Annual Report

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956

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J. A. W. REID, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (Glasgow)  
(Resigned 15th September, 1956)

T. C. FALCONER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.  
(Appointed 22nd October, 1956)  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



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## HEALTH COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :*

Councillor T. P. S. PRUDHAM.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor R. BUTTERWORTH.

Councillor T. W. ELLIOTT, J.P.	Councillor A. LUMSDEN.
„ E. M. FLEMING, J.P.	„ C. W. SCOTT.
„ D. G. HARDY.	„ J. B. SMITH.
„ O. C. HENDERSON.	„ R. SHANKS.
„ A. JOYCE.	„ T. TERNENT.

### No. 2 Area Health Sub-Committee.

Councillor R. BUTTERWORTH.

„ M. F. QUIGLEY.  
„ C. M. ROBERTS.  
„ C. W. SCOTT.  
„ R. SHANKS.

### United Districts of Jarrow, Hebburn, and Felling Joint M.O.H. Committee.

Councillor J. SMITH, B.Com. (*Chairman*).

„ G. R. F. ADAMS.  
„ T. P. S. PRUDHAM.  
„ R. BUTTERWORTH.

# Preface

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
FELLING-ON-TYNE,  
June, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Felling.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956. The Report has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. J. A. W. Reid resigned from the position of Medical Officer of Health and left in September to take up an appointment in the West Riding of Yorkshire. I succeeded him at the end of October and thus I was in office for little more than two months of the year covered by this Report.

The population of the Urban District rose by more than 1,000 during 1956. This increase is, in large measure, accounted for by the rehousing of Gateshead "Overspill" families on the Leam Lane Estate. The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths, was 191.

The Birth Rate again shows an increase over the previous year and the standardised rate is substantially greater than the rate for England and Wales.

The Still-birth Rate shows an increase of more than 50 per cent. over 1955, although, in fact, this represents an increase of only seven Still-births during the year.

Although the Death Rate is less than in 1955, the standardised rate of 14·26 is considerably greater than the figure of 11·17 for England and Wales. It will be seen from the Table showing the Four Principal Causes of Death that there is a reduction in deaths from Heart Diseases, Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, and Cancer, but there is an increase in deaths from Respiratory Diseases. In this category, once again there were approximately twice as many males as females. Although smoking habits and occupation may

contribute to some extent to this, recent investigations suggest that men are more susceptible to Respiratory Diseases than women, and thus they pay a higher price, in terms of chest troubles, for living in an industrial area where air pollution is prevalent.

The shortage of trained Public Health Inspectors gives cause for considerable anxiety. Despite repeated advertising, it has not been possible to replace the Inspector who left in March. In the meantime, new legislation in connection with Clean Food and Clean Air has placed extra duties on the staff. In addition, Meat Inspection, Public Cleansing, and work in connection with Petroleum Acts and Means of Escape in Case of Fire continue to occupy a considerable portion of the Inspectors' time. As the population of the Urban District is still increasing, so does the essential work of the Health Department, and failure to provide sufficient inducement to recruit additional staff will inevitably result in a breakdown of this vital service.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from Members of the Council, the Chief Officials, and my staff in the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. C. FALCONER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION "A."

### Statistics of the Area

---

#### (a) General Statistics.

Area of the Urban District in acres	....	....	3,325
Estimated Resident Population (mid-June, 1956)	...		27,240
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	8,906
		(Including Council Houses)	
Number of Council Houses	....	....	5,197
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	....	....	£215,412
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31st March, 1957)			£780

#### (b) Physical and Social Conditions.

##### (1) *Description of the Area.*

The shape of the Urban District is roughly a square. The northern boundary is formed by the River Tyne, whose banks are steep sided. Felling foreshore is about two miles long. The western and southern extents of the Urban District are the boundaries of Gateshead County Borough and of Washington Urban District, respectively. In the east the northern half of the Urban District abuts on to that of Hebburn Urban District and the southern half on to Boldon Urban District. Part of the southern boundary is formed by Gateshead Fell, which rises to about 600 feet above sea level. From here there is a gradual fall to the River.

Although primarily a mining and industrial area, there are some farms on the southern and eastern boundaries.

The main industries in the district are coal mining, engineering, the manufacture of paints and chemicals, upholstery and soft goods, and brick making.

##### (2) *Employment in the Area.*

I am indebted to Mr. T. O'Neill, Manager, Employment Exchange, Felling, for the following figures on employment, un-employment, and disability in the area.

The following table shows the occupation structure of the Urban District :—

INDUSTRY	Males	Females	Total
Mining and Mining Products ....	1,475	57	1,532
Engineering, Ship Repairing, &c. ....	1,367	103	1,470
Chemicals, &c.....	711	289	1,000
Building, &c. ....	733	6	739
Miscellaneous ....	234	481	715
Wood and Cork ....	372	328	700
Clothing ....	90	600	690
Distributive ....	188	295	483
National and Local Government ....	339	41	380
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ....	112	236	348
Paper, Printing, &c. ....	108	174	282
Metal Manufacture and Metal Goods	128	54	182
Professional Services ....	53	118	171
Transport, &c.....	115	14	129
	<u>6,025</u>	<u>2,796</u>	<u>8,821</u>

(3) *Unemployment.*

The following table shows the number of unemployed persons at the end of the year (aged 18 and over) :—

	Males	Females
Wholly Unemployed and Casuals	103	29
Temporarily Stopped ....	3	—

(4) *Disablement and Rehabilitation.*

Four hundred and ten males and 43 females, who were resident in the Urban District, are registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

The following tables show the number of disabled persons who were unemployed in the district at the end of the year :—

UNEMPLOYED REGISTERED DISABLED PERSONS.

	Males	Females
(a) Suitable for ordinary employment—		
Ex-service ....	8	Nil
Non Ex-service ....	15	3
(b) Severely disabled persons classified as unlikely to obtain employment other than under special conditions—		
Ex-service ....	Nil	Nil
Non Ex-service ....	6	1

(5) *National Assistance.*

I am indebted to Mr. Douglass, the Area Officer, National Assistance Board, for the following information regarding residents in the Urban District at the end of the year.

The following categories of persons received National Assistance :—

Unemployed	....	....	....	....	46
Sick	....	....	....	....	91
Retirement Pensioners (Contributory)					794
Non-contributory Old Age Pensioners					60
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	253
					<hr/> 1,244 <hr/>

(c) **Vital Statistics.**

*Live Births—*

	Males	Females	Total
Total	278	219	497
Legitimate	271	216	
Illegitimate	7	3	
Birth Rate	....	....	18.24
Comparability Factor	....	....	0.95
Standardised Birth Rate	....	....	17.32
Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births	....	....	20.12

*Still-births—*

	Males	Females	Total
Total	5	11	16
Legitimate	5	11	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	....	....	31.18
Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population	....	....	0.58

*Deaths—*

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	169	137	306
Death Rate	....	....	11.23
Comparability Factor	....	....	1.27
Standardised Death Rate	....	....	14.26
Maternal Death Rate	....	....	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	Nil
„ „ Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....	....	2
„ „ „ „ „ (under 2 years)	....	....	Nil
„ „ Influenza (all ages)	....	....	1
„ „ Cancer (all types)	....	....	43
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	....	....	Nil

*Deaths of Infants under one year of age—*

				Males	Females	Total
Total	....	....	....	9	1	10
Legitimate	....	....	....	9	1	10
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—

*Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)* .... 20·12

*Infants under four weeks—*

Neonatal Death Rate .... 16·09

*Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age—*

				Males	Females	Total
Total	....	....	....	7	1	8
Legitimate	....	....	....	7	1	8
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—

## INFANT MORTALITY.

*Causes of Death of Infants under one year of age—*

Congenital Deformity	....	....	....	4
Prematurity	....	....	....	3
Infection	....	....	....	2
Other Causes	....	....	....	1
TOTAL	....	....	....	<u>10</u>



### Principal Causes of Deaths.

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total	Percentage of Total Deaths
Heart Disease (all types) ....	74	48	122	39·9
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ....	13	21	34	11·1
Cancer (all types) ....	21	22	43	14·0
Respiratory (all types) ....	27	13	40	13·1

### Comparative Rates, 1956. Felling Urban District and England and Wales

	Felling	England and Wales
Standardised Birth Rate ....	17·32	15·7
Standardised Death Rate ....	14·26	11·7
Infant Mortality Rate ....	20·12	23·8
Still-birth Rate ....	31·18	23·0

## MORBIDITY STATISTICS

### NEW CLAIMS OF SICKNESS BENEFIT, 1956

Week Ending—				Week Ending—			
January	3rd	....	....220	July	3rd	....	.... 85
„	10th	....	....173	„	10th	....	.... 73
„	17th	....	....135	„	17th	....	.... 84
„	24th	....	....115	„	24th	....	.... 71
„	31st	....	....120	„	31st	....	.... 75
			—763				—388
February	7th	....	....151	August	7th	....	.... 59
„	14th	....	....175	„	14th	....	.... 83
„	21st	....	....203	„	21st	....	.... 71
„	28th	....	....193	„	28th	....	.... 83
			—722				—296
March	6th	....	....175	September	4th	....	....104
„	13th	....	....112	„	11th	....	.... 82
„	20th	....	.... 96	„	18th	....	....106
„	27th	....	.... 92	„	25th	....	.... 92
			—475				—384
April	3rd	....	.... 54	October	2nd	....	....111
„	10th	....	....113	„	9th	....	....115
„	17th	....	.... 90	„	16th	....	....106
„	24th	....	.... 89	„	23rd	....	.... 86
			—346	„	30th	....	.... 89
May	1st	....	.... 88				—507
„	8th	....	....115	November	6th	....	....121
„	15th	....	.... 93	„	13th	....	....106
„	22nd	....	.... 62	„	20th	....	....102
„	29th	....	....102	„	27th	....	....118
			—460				—447
June	5th	....	....103	December	4th	....	....108
„	12th	....	....100	„	11th	....	.... 98
„	19th	....	.... 83	„	18th	....	.... 90
„	26th	....	.... 69				—296
			—355				

### Causes of Death in Felling Urban District, 1956.

	Males	Females	Per cent. Total Deaths
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	2	....	0·6
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	....	0·3
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach .....	6	4	3·3
"    "    Lung, Bronchus .....	11	1	4·0
"    "    Breast .....	....	2	0·6
"    "    Uterus .....	....	3	1·0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	4	12	5·3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	13	21	11·2
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	35	14	16·2
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	3	7	3·4
Other Heart Diseases .....	28	23	17·0
Other Circulatory Disease .....	8	4	4·0
Influenza .....	....	1	0·4
Pneumonia .....	5	8	4·3
Bronchitis .....	17	2	6·2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	3	2	1·6
Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum .....	3	....	1·0
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea .....	....	2	0·6
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	....	1	0·4
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	3	....	1·0
Congenital Malformations .....	3	....	1·0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	12	19	10·1
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	3	1·6
All other Accidents .....	7	6	4·3
Suicide .....	3	2	1·6
 TOTAL (ALL CAUSES) .....	 169	 137	 100·0

Principal Vital Statistics for Previous Years.

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Population ....	27,240	26,190	25,840	26,020	25,200	25,190	25,280	25,420	24,310	24,770
Birth Rate (per 1,000 Population) ....	18.24	16.72	16.17	17.3	16.7	17.5	16.73	19.23	19.5	22.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 Population) ....	11.23	12.07	10.99	10.5	11.3	12.06	12.58	12.27	12.5	12.9
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) ....	20.12	18.26	21.53	28.9	28.4	27.1	35.46	26.58	36.5	45.75
Still-birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still-births) ....	31.18	20.13	34.64	26.0	25.4	18.1	17.0	19.47	27.6	35.2
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still-births) ....	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.52
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Incidence (per 1,000 Population) ....	1.17	1.10	1.9	1.3	1.23	2.85	1.02	1.37	1.58	1.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate (per 1,000 Population) ....	0.07	0.15	0.15	0.46	0.32	0.75	0.39	0.74	0.75	1.17



## Summary of Joint Area Statistics.

	Jarrow	Hebburn	Felling	Joint Area	
				1956	1955
<b>General</b>					
Area in Acres ....	1,985	1,563	3,325	6,873	6,873
Population ....	29,140	23,720	27,240	80,100	78,930
Number of Inhabited Houses ....	9,113	7,612	8,906	25,631	25,462
Number of Council Houses ....	3,825	2,844	5,197	11,866	10,812
Sub-standard Houses remaining to be dealt with by 1960 ....	1,069	570	238	1,877	1,547
<b>Vital</b>					
Number of Births ....	624	510	497	1,631	1,552
Standardised Birth Rate ....	19.48	19.14	17.32	18.52	18.09
Number of Still-births ....	18	16	16	50	40
Still-birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still-births) ....	28.04	30.04	31.18	29.74	25.77
Infant Deaths ....	19	14	10	43	50
Infant Mortality Rate ....	30.45	27.50	20.12	26.36	31.22
Maternal Mortality ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.01
Number of Deaths ....	360	266	306	932	910
Standardised Death Rate ....	15.31	15.23	14.26	15.02	13.72
<b>Principal Causes of Death</b> (Percentage of Total Deaths)					
(a) INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR					
Infection ....	11.8	Nil	20.0	9.3	29.8
Congenital Deformity ....	35.3	31.25	40.0	34.9	14.3
Prematurity ....	23.5	25.0	30.0	25.6	23.1
Others ....	29.4	43.75	10.0	30.2	32.8
(b) ALL AGES					
Heart Disease ....	38.33	28.9	39.9	36.16	32.5
Cancer ....	16.66	21.0	14.0	17.06	15.9
Respiratory Disease ....	16.94	13.5	13.1	14.69	14.9
Vascular Diseases ....	12.22	17.3	11.1	13.30	14.3
<b>Infectious Diseases—Tuberculosis</b> (NOTIFICATIONS)					
Respiratory ....	66	46	32	144	117
Non-respiratory ....	2	6	3	11	18
INCIDENCE RATE—					
Respiratory ....	2.27	1.94	1.17	1.80	1.48
Non-respiratory ....	0.07	0.25	0.10	1.14	0.23
DEATH RATE—					
Respiratory ....	0.14	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.51
Non-respiratory ....	0.07	Nil	Nil	0.02	0.15
<b>Measles</b>					
Notifications ....	183	359	36	578	1,290
Incidence ....	6.28	15.15	1.32	7.22	16.34
<b>Whooping Cough</b>					
Notifications ....	261	46	77	384	447
Incidence ....	8.96	1.94	2.82	4.79	5.66
<b>Pneumonia</b>					
Notifications ....	98	33	7	138	106
Incidence ....	3.36	1.39	0.26	1.72	1.36
<b>Dysentery</b>					
Notifications ....	187	83	25	295	352
Incidence ....	6.42	3.50	0.92	3.68	4.46
(Rates are given per 1,000 Population)					

SECTION " B."

## General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

---

(a) **Public Health Services.**

(1) *Staff.*

(a) FELLING U.D.C.—

Medical Officer of Health and Area Medical Officer—

J. A. W. REID, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 15th September, 1956).

T. C. FALCONER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (as from 22nd October, 1956).

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Supt.—

J. WEAR, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.  
Inspector Meat and Foods.

Second Public Health Inspector and Deputy Cleansing

Supt.—R. D. COPELAND, A.R.San.I., Cert. Inspector  
Meat and Foods (Resigned 17th March, 1956).

G. HALL, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert. Inspector Meat  
and Foods (Appointed 19th March, 1956).

Additional Public Health Inspector—

VACANT.

Clerk—

T. GRAHAM (Pupil Sanitary Inspector) (on National  
Service since January, 1956).

W. WAUGH (Commenced August, 1956).

Pupil Public Health Inspector—

E. RAMSDEN (Commenced February, 1956).

Rodent Operator—

R. LUMSDEN.

(b) DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL—

Assistant Medical Officers—

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Dr. P. DIXON, M.B., B.S.

School Health—

Dr. R. STRUNIN, M.D. (Berlin).

Health Visitors—

Miss E. A. DOBING, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss E. SMITH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Miss M. WOODS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

District Nurses—

Mrs. F. KITCHEN, S.R.N.

Mrs. M. TODD, S.R.N.

Midwives—

Miss M. R. EMMERSON, S.C.M.

Miss B. G. H. HOLDSWORTH, S.C.M.

Miss J. SMITH, S.C.M.

Mrs. A. SHORT, S.C.M.

Home Help Organiser (Felling)—

Mrs. E. M. MEREDITH.

Duly Authorised Officer—

W. SMALLWOOD.

(2) *Laboratory Services.*

The Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle, under Dr. A. I. Messer carries out bacteriological examinations.

The following are particulars of specimens and samples examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle :—

SPECIMEN	Positive	Negative	Total
THROAT SWABS—			
Diphtheria ....	—	1	1
Hæmolytic Streptococci ....	2	1	3
FAECES—			
Dysentery ....	36	84	120
Salmonella Typhi Murium	26	15	41
Typhoid ....	—	1	1
SPUTUM—			
Tuberculosis....	34	183	217
BLOOD—			
Paul Bunnell ....	—	1	1
Widal Test ....	1	1	2
Wasserman ....	—	1	1
WOUND SWAB—			
Staphylococci ....	—	1	1
URINE—			
Organisms ....	3	5	8



(3) *National Assistance Act, 1948.*

SECTION 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was necessary during 1956. A number of cases were visited by the Medical Officer during the year and, where necessary, admission to hospital or hostel was arranged or the service of a home help provided.

SECTION 50.—Burial or Cremation of the Dead.

No action was necessary during 1956.

(4) *Sewage Disposal Works.*

These works, which were opened in June, 1955, deal with sewage from the major portion of the Leam Lane Estate. They were fully described in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1955.

(5) *Health Education.*

Talks on health matters have been given by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector to interested bodies. Posters on Health Education topics have been displayed in factories, canteens, and public halls.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946—PART III.

The following personal health services are provided by Durham County Council and are administered through No. 2 Area Health Sub-Committee, on which the Urban District is represented by five members.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN—SECTION 22.

*Ante-Natal Clinic.*

Sessions : Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the clinics during the year :—

Number of Mothers	....	....	....	240
Attendances	....	....	....	905

*Post-Natal Clinic.*

Sessions : Friday mornings (second and fourth in month).

The total number of attendances during the year was 13.



### *Birth Control.*

Session : Friday mornings (second and fourth in month).

Advice was given to 19 mothers.

### *Child Welfare.*

Sessions : Wednesday mornings (weekly) ; Friday mornings (first, third, and fifth in month).

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the clinic, and the number of visits these children made to the clinic throughout the year :—

NO. OF CHILDREN			ATTENDANCES		
Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years
268	51	98	1,521	131	188

### *Artificial Sunlight Clinic.*

Sessions : Monday and Friday afternoons weekly.

Eighty-eight mothers and children attended the clinic during the year. The total number of attendances during the year was 900.

### MIDWIFERY—SECTION 23.

There are four County Midwives in Felling. No midwives practice privately in the area. During the year they attended 249 confinements. 47·4 per cent. expectant mothers had their babies at home, and 52·6 per cent. in hospital.

Doctor	Booked	Not Booked	Analgesia	
			Gas and Air	Pethidine
Present at delivery ....	165	....	18	108
Not present at delivery ....	72	14	10	35
TOTAL ....	237	14	28	143

#### HEALTH VISITING—SECTION 24.

Three Health Visitors serve the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits were paid during 1956 :—

Maternity and Child Welfare	....	....	5,482
Tuberculosis....	....	....	936
General Health	....	....	2
Mental Deficiency	....	....	144
Schools	....	....	40
Aged People....	....	....	19
TOTAL			6,623

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 17·5.

#### HOME NURSING—SECTION 25.

Three whole-time nurses were employed during the year. They attended 356 patients, 191 being medical cases and 141 surgical cases. Twenty-two cases of Tuberculosis and two Maternity cases also received help during the year. The total number of visits paid to all patients was 5,952.

#### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION—SECTION 26.

The following tables give the number of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by the doctors in the Urban District :—

VACCINATION.					RE-VACCINATION.		
Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15 years and over	TOTAL	1-15 years	15 years and over	TOTAL
199	26	10	10	245	34	14	48

# IMMUNISATIONS.

PRIMARY							
Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	TOTAL
197	56	13	6	5	10	Nil	287

REINFORCING INJECTIONS							
Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	1	1	125	31	Nil	158

## *Poliomyelitis Immunisation.*

It was agreed to adopt the recommendations in Ministry of Health Circular 2/56 and, in March, parental consent was obtained in respect of 1,472 children born between 1st January, 1947, and 31st December, 1954. Owing to the fact that the vaccine was in short supply, immunisation was in the first place restricted to children born in the month of November in the years 1947-1954 and March in the years 1951-1954; in addition, a reserve month, August, 1947-1954, was selected lest any vaccine remain unused. In the months of May and June, 149 children received the complete course of two injections and 26 had received a first injection. Vaccination was suspended after 30th June. A further supply of vaccine was issued in December, priority being given to children who had previously received only one injection; 18 such children received a second injection and a further seven received a first injection.

Total Children Registered	INJECTIONS GIVEN				Totals at end of December	
	May and June		December			
	First	Second	First	Second	First	Second
*1,472	26	149	7	18	15	167

\* This represents 40 per cent. of those children eligible according to date of birth.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE—SECTION 27.

The Urban District is served by the Hebburn Ambulance Control, which is situated at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn (Telephone 32157).

The Control is manned by four clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service. No. 2 Health Area is covered primarily by vehicles from the Hebburn Depot, which has an establishment of one head driver, 27 drivers, and eight ambulances, two of which are radio-controlled.

This Depot serves the population in the Borough of Jarrow, the Urban Districts of Felling, Hebburn, Boldon, and Washington, and part of Sunderland Rural District. The present population is 125,000 persons, of which about two-thirds live on the river side belt of Jarrow, Hebburn, and Felling.

10,915 calls were made, entailing a mileage of 134,494 miles. 24,141 persons were transported during the year, comprising 4,627 stretcher cases and 19,514 sitting cases.

The above figures do not necessarily include all cases from the area carried, since vehicles from other depots are utilised when co-ordination can effect economies.

It is intended to build a new depot at Hebburn and also to set up a Co-ordinating Control Centre near Durham. This should ensure a more efficient service.

#### PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE—SECTION 28.

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by the Home Nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sickroom equipment, such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses, and rubber sheeting can be had on loan. During the year 90 persons received loaned equipment.

#### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE—SECTION 29.

Forty-two Home Helps were employed in the Urban District during the year, and they attended 102 cases. Thirty-five new cases were provided with a Home Help.

*Cases who received service during 1956 :—*

Old Age Pensioners	....	....	....	92
Sickness	....	....	....	4
Tuberculosis....	....	....	....	1
Maternity	....	....	....	8
				<hr/>
				105



(c) **Hospital Services.**

The local hospital services are administered by the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. There are no hospitals in the Urban District. The following hospitals serve the district :—

Hospital				Type
QUEEN ELIZABETH	....	....	....	General and Maternity.
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, GATESHEAD	....			Children.
BENSHAM	....	....	....	Chronic Sick.
SHERIFF HILL	....	....	....	Infectious Diseases.

*Chest Clinic, Greenesfield House, Gateshead.*

Sessions : Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 noon (both sexes).

*Venereal Diseases Clinics.*

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for details of patients within the area who have been attending the clinics at South Shields and Newcastle.

CLINIC	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Non-Venereal	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Newcastle ....	2	2	6	—	13	8
South Shields	—	—	—	—	1	—

*Blood Transfusion.*

The area is served by the Unit stationed in Newcastle. Sessions for donating blood are arranged at regular intervals.

FELLING.—Mr. G. Tait Hunter, Regional Organiser, has kindly supplied details of donor panels and sessions held in Felling during the year :—

Date of Sessions					No. of Donors Attending
March	....	....	....	....	84
April ....	....	....	....	....	55
September	....	....	....	....	86
October	....	....	....	....	100

(d) **Executive Council.**

There are six practices with 13 General Practitioners practising in the Urban District. Main surgeries are situated in the Wards as follows : two in Central, two in Pelaw, one in Coldwell, and one on the Leam Lane Estate. In addition, there is a branch surgery on the Leam Lane Estate and another in Windy Nook, the latter belonging to a Doctor living outside the Urban District.

(e) **Mental Health.**

*Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.*

Number of Cases investigated	....	....	....	40
				—

ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL—

Urgency Order	....	....	....	....	—
Certified Patients	....	....	....	....	5
3-day Orders	....	....	....	....	26
14-day Orders	....	....	....	....	1
Relapse on trial	....	....	....	....	1
Escape and recapture	....	....	....	....	1
Voluntary Patients	....	....	....	....	19
Temporary Patients	....	....	....	....	—
				—	

TOTAL	....	....	....	....	53
				—	

*Mental Deficiency Acts.*

Under supervision and guardianship	....	....	....	43
In Institutions	....	....	....	22
				—

TOTAL	....	....	....	....	65
				—	

*Education Act.*

Children notified during the year as

(1) Ineducable	....	....	....	....	2
(2) Requiring supervision after leaving school	....	....	....	....	—
				—	

TOTAL	....	....	....	....	2
				—	

# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

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*To the Medical Officer of Health.*

SIR,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1956.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. WEAR,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

## SECTION "C."

# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

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### 1. (a) *Water Supply.*

With the exception of a smallholder's cottage situated on high ground in the south part of the area and a railway signalman's cottage near the south boundary, the area generally is supplied with water from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. A small portion of the south-east part of the district, adjoining the Hebburn boundary, is supplied with water from the mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

- (i) The supply to the area on the whole is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Regular examinations are made of the supply.
- (iii) There is little likelihood of plumbo solvent action.

### (b) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Sewage Disposal Works at Follingsby Lane are now in full use and drain a considerable part of the new Leam Lane Estate. The remainder of the area is drained by sewers discharging direct into the River Tyne.

### 2. *Rivers and Streams.*

The River Tyne is the only large waterway and this serves as a common sewer for the many townships along its banks. The other stream running through this district is known as the River Don, which receives the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works.

### 3. *Closet Accommodation.*

There are approximately 9,095 water closets and 14 ash closets in the area. The ash closets are situated at farms or other outlying premises where no sewerage is available.



#### 4. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection is carried out by the use of mechanical transport. Four C.K.3 10 cubic yard Hydraulic Tipping Vehicles are in use for this purpose. With the increasing number of houses being built on the Leam Lane Estate, the fourth vehicle is being brought into further use and is now occupied for most of the week on refuse collection. A once-weekly collection of refuse is maintained throughout the year. When inclement weather, with heavy snow, occurs, these vehicles are used for snow clearance, but as soon as conditions are sufficiently improved the vehicles return to refuse collection, and the once-weekly collection cycle has very rarely been exceeded.

The large-scale development on the Leam Lane Estate continues, and this eventually will require a considerable increase in manpower and the possibility of a further vehicle for the cleansing service.

With the present design and layout of housing estates, it is felt that more consideration should be given to the siting of the ash bin, as one finds that often the individual haul to and from the dwelling has been greatly lengthened, with a corresponding decrease in the number of bins collected in a day.

#### STATISTICS

Year	Collected		Loads	Miles	Petrol
	Bins	Boxes			
1956 ....	568,195	2,889	5,020 $\frac{3}{4}$	23,428 $\frac{1}{2}$	5,101 $\frac{1}{2}$
1955 ....	549,784	2,947	4,613 $\frac{3}{4}$	21,048	4,142
1954 ....	535,825	4,092	4,306 $\frac{1}{2}$	19,821	3,799

Sixty-three defective bins were replaced by B.S.S. dust bins from the stock of the Cleansing Department by sales to local property-owners.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. A disused clay quarry, situated in the Low Heworth Lane, is being filled in by this method. The longest haul is approximately two miles. When

tipping is completed, it is intended that the site will be developed for recreational purposes.

A number of fires, which were immediately extinguished, again occurred during the year. These were apparently due to unlawful disturbance of the tip, and a number of successful prosecutions of persons unlawfully disturbing the surface of the tip were obtained at the local Court.

#### *5. Gulley Emptying and Street Sweeping.*

Two Mechanical Gulley Emptiers are in use in the area.

Street sweeping is carried out partly by the use of a road sweeper collector and partly by the gang method.

#### *6. Swimming Baths.*

There are no Public Baths or Swimming Pools within the Urban District but it is intended that a Public Baths be erected in the future under the development scheme for the Leam Lane Estate.

#### *7. Schools.*

Works of improvement have been carried out in a number of schools in the area regarding sanitary and washing facilities.

#### *8. Smoke Abatement.*

Nuisance in this district is sometimes caused by fumes discharging from Pit heaps. Two collieries—one situated in the South Ward and one in the East Ward of the area—have each a heap emitting sulphurous fumes when the wind is in a certain direction, which causes discomfort and annoyance to the inhabitants in this and adjoining districts.

Informal action was taken in five cases to abate smoke nuisance, and conditions showed great improvement.

In the report for last year attention was drawn to the Council's consideration of making it a condition of tenancy that all post-war Council houses should use only solid smokeless fuels. After considerable discussion the Council decided to give further consideration to this matter at a future date.

#### *9. Rodent Control.*

A rodent operator is employed in the Health Department, and he deals with all rat and mice infestations and sewer treatments.

All complaints received are investigated and treated if required ; routine visits and inspections are also carried out.

In cases where the normal poisons cannot be used due to varied circumstances, A.N.T.U., Warfarin, Tomorin and, in some cases, Arsenious Oxide, are used. It is emphasised that after any poisoning, post-baiting is essential, as it is the only method that can be used quickly to determine if the infestation has indeed been completely eradicated.

By using the approved methods of the Ministry, the rodent extermination work has been greatly improved, and with the technique recommended by the Ministry and carried out in this area, one does find in most cases complete eradication after initial poisoning, but in all cases post-baiting is carried out as a routine check.

#### 10. *Eradication of the Bed Bug.*

	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of Houses Infested	3	Nil

When a complaint of bug infestation is received, the infested dwelling is inspected and sprayed with suitable insecticides.

No general disinfestation scheme for Council houses and removals from Council houses is in force.

Council houses, when vacated at the end of a tenancy, are inspected by the Housing Department, and should any type of vermin be seen, the Health Department are notified and treatment is carried out before a new tenant enters into possession.

#### 11. *Other Infestations.*

The following are details of infestations dealt with during the year :—

	Council Houses	Other Houses	Total
Furniture Beetle	25	—	25
Beetles	18	3	21
Fleas	7	1	8
Flies	2	—	2
Crickets	1	—	1
Cockroaches	3	—	3
Earwigs	5	—	5
Red Spider	3	—	3
Springtails (Collembola)	1	—	1
	<u>65</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>69</u>



Complaints are often received of beetles and other infestations, and powders containing D.D.T. or B.H.C. are issued as required. Where a serious infestation occurs, the dwelling is treated by the staff of the Health Department.

The general public, as commented on in last year's Report, are becoming increasingly aware of the damage caused by the furniture beetles, and considerable numbers of enquiries were received for advice on treatment. Where Council houses are affected, the Health Department staff deal with the matter, and if the infestation is severe the affected woodwork is removed and replaced with suitably-treated wood. At prescribed times, spraying is carried out in known cases in Council dwellings, and where slight infestation occurs injection of the holes with a hypodermic syringe containing a suitable insecticide has been found to be most effective. Re-treatments of all Council houses are carried out each year and it is pleasing to note that there is a definite decrease in the degree of infestation after treatment has been carried out.



# GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The following are details of notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	PUBLIC HEALTH ACT				HOUSING ACT			
	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices		Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Main Roofs repaired .....	30	29	....	....	....	2	....	....
Off-shoot Roofs repaired....	16	15	....	....	....	....	....	....
Chimney Stacks repaired .....	14	14	....	....	....	....	....	....
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed .....	27	28	....	....	1	1	....	....
Rain-water Pipes repaired or renewed....	14	15	....	....	....	1	....	....
Soil Pipes repaired or renewed .....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pointing repaired .....	27	32	....	....	2	4	....	....
Brickwork repaired .....	16	18	....	....	2	3	....	....
Window Woodwork repaired or renewed .....	6	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sash Cords renewed .....	10	9	....	....	....	....	....	....
Floors repaired or renewed .....	16	17	....	....	3	3	....	....
Sub-floor Ventilation provided .....	4	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
Handrails provided or repaired .....	4	6	....	....	....	....	....	....
Door Woodwork repaired or renewed....	14	14	....	....	....	....	....	....
Scullery Benches repaired or renewed ..	2	3	....	....	....	....	....	....
Woodwork (Miscellaneous) repaired or renewed .....	5	10	....	....	....	....	....	....
Wall Plaster renewed .....	27	19	....	....	1	1	....	....
Ceiling Plaster renewed .....	11	7	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ranges repaired or renewed .....	10	12	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or renewed .....	12	10	....	....	....	....	....	....
Water Service Pipes repaired .....	31	38	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yard Paving repaired .....	3	4	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yard Gullies repaired .....	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....
Outbuilding Roofs repaired .....	2	3	....	....	....	....	....	....
W.C. Roofs repaired .....	10	11	....	....	....	....	....	....
„ Brickwork repaired .....	8	7	....	....	....	....	....	....
„ Doors repaired or renewed .....	8	6	....	....	....	....	....	....
„ Basins refixed or renewed .....	2	3	....	....	....	1	....	....
„ Flush Pipes repaired .....	13	13	....	....	....	....	....	....
„ Cisterns repaired or renewed .....	14	14	....	....	....	....	....	....
„ Seats repaired or renewed .....	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....
Drains cleansed and repaired .....	10	11	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dust Bins renewed .....	164	159	....	....	....	....	....	....
Inadequate Ventilation .....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Washing Accommodation repaired .....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....
	534	543	....	....	10	17	....	....

## Factories Act, 1937.

### 1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

PREMISES. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections. (3)	NUMBER OF Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	4	8	....	....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	64	97	4	....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	1	....	....	....
Total .. ..	69	105	4	....

### Defects Found.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecu- tions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)..	....	....	....	....
Overcrowding (S.2.) ..	....	....	....	....
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—				
Insufficient .. ..	1	1	1	....
Unsuitable or defective	5	4	4	....
Not separate for sexes..	....	....	....	....
Other Offences .. ..	3	4	1	....
Total .. ..	9	9	6	....

## SECTION "D."

# Housing in the Area

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There were 8,906 inhabited houses in the Urban District at the end of 1956.

The Council owns 5,197 houses.

### *House Erection.*

During the year the Council completed 581 houses on their own land, and also handed over 53 houses to Gateshead Corporation erected on land owned by that Authority on the Leam Lane Estate. Gateshead Corporation also completed 52 houses on their land on the Leam Lane Estate.

Eighteen private houses were built during the year.

### *Rehousing—Unfit Houses.*

Including individual unfit houses and dwellings from areas where undertakings not to re-let dwellings have been obtained from the owners, 67 families from 65 dwellings have been rehoused in 66 Council houses during the year.

The number of persons rehoused was 207.

## SECTION "E."

# Inspection and Supervision of Food

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### (a) Milk Supply.

#### MILK

(SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED)

REGULATIONS, 1949.

Fourteen licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Pasteurised," two licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Tuberculin Tested Sterilised," and 68 licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Sterilised," were issued during the year

Three supplementary licences for "Pasteurised" milk, three for "Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised" milk, and three for "Sterilised" milk were issued during the year.

### (b) Meat and Other Foods.

Three private slaughterhouses are in use in the area and all carcasses are inspected. At holiday periods and during peak week-end killings, some overtime has had to be worked by the two Inspectors.

All carcasses are examined in accordance with the regulations laid down in Memo 3/Foods and the numbers killed showed an increase of  $14\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. over the previous year.

Improvements to slaughterhouses regarding hot water supply and fittings were carried out during the year to comply with the new By-laws regarding private slaughterhouses. The By-laws came into effect on the 5th November, 1956.

Following an outbreak of swine fever at a local farm, nine pigs were examined as to fitness for food, and seven entire carcasses and offals were found to be affected with swine fever. These carcasses were disposed of by the Constabulary, who are the Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Acts.



Details of meat found to be unfit after inspection in the slaughter-houses in the area are as follows :—

Cattle.				Condition Found.
Two Whole Carcases (including				
Heads and Offal)	....	1,466 lb.		Generalised Tuberculosis
Heads and Tongues	....	290 lb.		Tuberculosis
Lungs	....	....	164 lb.	Tuberculosis
Lungs	....	....	10 lb.	*Parasitic Infestations
Lungs	....	....	6 lb.	Abcesses
Lungs	....	....	8 lb.	Pleurisy
Livers	....	....	46 lb.	Tuberculosis
Livers	....	....	967 lb.	†Parasitic Infestations
Livers	....	....	607 lb.	Cirrhosis
Livers	....	....	221 lb.	Abcesses

\* Parasitic infestations includes Fasciola Hepatica.  
† Parasitic infestations include Fasciola Hepatica and Echinococcus Granulosis.

Sheep.

Whole Lamb Carcase	....	35 lb.	Emaciation
Forelegs	....	4 lb.	Bruising
Lungs	....	52 lb.	†Parasitic Infestations
Lungs	....	10 lb.	Pneumonia
Livers	....	37 lb.	*Parasitic Infestations
Livers	....	6 lb.	Abcesses
Livers	....	10 lb.	Contamination

† Parasitic infestations includes Strongylus Rufescens.  
\* Parasitic infestations includes Fasciola Hepatica.

Pigs

Seven Whole Carcases and				
Offal	....	....	966 lb.	Swine Fever
Head and Tongue		....	10 lb.	Tuberculosis

Total weight unfit :—  
2 tons, 3 cwt., 3 qr., 1 st., 1 lb.

Table showing Inspections and Condemnations

	Cattle (Excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ....	487	23	....	2,069	43	....
Number inspected ..... ..	487	23	....	2,069	43	....
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ....	....	....	....	1	7	....
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .... ..	205	12	....	48	....	....
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ....	42·09%	52·17%	....	2·36%	16·27%	....
<b>Tuberculosis only—</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ....	2	....	....	....	....	....
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .... ..	22	4	....	....	1	....
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	4·92%	17·39%	....	....	2·32%	....
<b>Cysticercosis—</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .... ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration .... ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Generalised and totally condemned....	....	....	....	....	....	....

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

English Hindquarter Beef	lb. oz.	
....254 0		Bone Taint and Bruising
Pig Heads .... ..	80 0	Decomposition
Pressed Pig Cheek ....	15 6	Decomposition
Ham .... ..	30 0	Decomposition
Side Bacon .... ..	3 0	Decomposition
Shoulder Bacon ....	27 0	Decomposition
Beef Sausages .... ..	1 0	Decomposition
Chocolate Rolls ....	23 0	Mould Formation
Assorted Biscuits ....	43 0	Decomposition due to Dampness and Contamination by Mice
Assorted Sweets ....	66 0	
Cereals .... ..	50 0	
Self-raising Flour ....	39 0	
Currants .... ..	18 0	
Raisins .... ..	5 0	
Sultanas .... ..	35 0	
Potatoes .... ..	54 0	
Beans .... ..	7 0	
Peas .... ..	3 0	

### Tinned Goods.

		Tins	lb.	oz.	
Meats (various)	....	90	320	3	} Blown, Perforated, or Rusted Containers
Ham	....	30	329	12	
Tongue	....	14	57	0	
Soups	....	25	22	12	
Fish	....	5	2	0	
Fruits (various)	....	139	145	5	
Vegetables	....	93	86	2	
Tomatoes	....	141	110	13	
Milk....	....	32	25	8	
Miscellaneous	....	119	54	12	

Total weight of foodstuffs surrendered :—  
17 cwt., 3 lb.

Total weight of all food found unfit, including local killed meat :—  
3 tons, 3 qr., 1 st., 4 lb.

Part of the foodstuffs condemned was used for animal feeding or returned for reconditioning for manufacturing purposes. The remainder was disposed of by tipping at the Council's controlled tip. All meat found to be unfit was stained with a special green dye before disposal. No special examination of a store or a consignment of food was made during the year.

### ICE-CREAM.

#### *Ice-Cream—Heat-treatment Regulations.*

One producer of ice-cream is registered in the area. All the latest devices are used by this producer in the production of this product and this factory is a model of its type. Strict precautions are taken and the premises at all times are kept clean and are most satisfactory.

Forty-eight shops sell pre-packed ice-cream, and all precautions are taken regarding temperature control and cleanliness.

Regular inspections are carried out at these premises.

### CLEAN FOOD EDUCATION.

No Clean Food Guild has been established in the area, nor are any organised lectures given to Food Trades. It is felt that more can be accomplished by personal contact with staffs of shops than by an organised address.

Lectures have again been given to various bodies, including the Women's Guilds, on varied subjects and in particular on food hygiene, and it is most pleasing to find an increasing interest being shown by the local people in these lectures. The lectures usually consist of an address and a period for questions, and one finds that often the question time is longer than the time taken to give the address.

### FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

The following table gives the types of food premises in the Urban District :—

Type						Number
Bakers	....	....	....	....	....	3
Butchers	....	....	....	....	....	27
Cafes	....	....	....	....	....	4
Confectioners	....	....	....	....	....	17
Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	1
Fish Fryers	....	....	....	....	....	9
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	2
Fruiterers	..	....	....	....	....	13
General Dealers	...	....	....	....	....	63
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	34
Registered Ice-cream Retailers	....	....	....	....	....	48
Registered Ice-cream Producers	....	....	....	....	....	1

#### *Registered Premises.*

Potted, Pressed, Pickled, or Preserved Food						
Premises	....	....	....	....	....	22
Ice-cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	49

Regular inspections of all premises have been carried out during the year.

#### *Food Hygiene Regulations.*

All premises where food is prepared were circularised with the requirements of the Regulations and visits were paid to as many as possible by the end of the year, but with staff shortages and other commitments it was not possible to inspect all premises. This work will continue in 1957. Some considerable improvements have already been carried out on various premises and a detailed statement will be included in the next report.



## SECTION " F "

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Prevention and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases

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It is pleasing to record such a substantial decrease in the incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Urban District during 1956, when 196 cases were notified ; this represents approximately one-fifth of the 976 cases notified during the previous year.

### *Tuberculosis.*

The only category showing any increase over 1955 is that of male cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which rose slightly from 13 to 18. This increase was largely offset by the decrease in notifications of females suffering from this disease from 17 to 14. In this connection it should be noted that amongst those rehoused on the Leam Lane Estate from Gateshead "overspill" there is a substantial number of previously notified cases of Tuberculosis ; during 1956 there were 30 such "inward transfers."

### *Measles.*

There were only 36 notifications in 1956 ; of these, 24 cases occurred in December. This, unfortunately, subsequently proved to be the beginnings of an epidemic early in 1957.

### *Dysentery.*

Notifications during the year showed a substantial reduction to 25 as compared with 182 in 1955. However, this is no cause for complacency, as Sonne Dysentery continues to be prevalent throughout Tyneside despite control and treatment of known cases and carriers.

### *Whooping Cough.*

There were 77 notifications, as compared with 169 in 1955. It will be seen that these cases were scattered fairly evenly throughout the year and at no time was there any question of even a minor epidemic. This may, to a considerable extent, be due to the fact that many mothers have had their children immunised against Whooping Cough by their own family Doctor. It is regrettable that this valuable protective measure is not available at the Clinics run by Durham County Council.

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1956.

AGE PERIODS		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1— 5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5—15	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—25	....	5	5	1	1	....	....	....	....
25—35	....	3	4	....	1	....	....	....	....
35—45	....	2	4	....	....	....	....	....	....
45—55	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
55—65	....	1	1	....	....	2	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	....	18	14	1	2	2	....	....	....

Tuberculosis—Incidence and Death Rate, 1937–56.

Year	Population	CASES P.T.B. NOTIFIED		CASES N.P.T.B. NOTIFIED		Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Population	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1937	.... 25,830	46	36	23	5	1.78	0.89	1.43	0.19
1938	.... 26,040	23	22	22	5	0.88	0.84	0.84	0.19
1939	.... 26,080	24	18	13	5	0.92	0.5	0.72	0.19
1940	.... 24,020	23	23	12	4	0.95	0.49	0.95	0.16
1941	.... 24,120	30	24	5	5	1.24	0.28	1.0	0.28
1942	.... 24,220	23	22	3	5	0.91	0.12	0.9	0.21
1943	.... 24,360	27	22	9	4	1.11	0.37	0.9	0.16
1944	.... 24,460	19	11	7	2	0.78	0.21	0.45	0.08
1945	.... 24,500	24	23	10	7	0.98	0.41	0.94	0.28
1946	.... 24,560	28	12	12	3	1.14	0.48	0.48	0.12
1947	.... 24,770	25	28	8	3	1.01	0.32	1.13	0.12
1948	.... 25,310	50	19	6	3	1.97	0.24	0.75	0.12
1949	.... 25,420	35	19	8	5	1.38	0.31	0.75	0.19
1950	.... 25,280	26	10	3	Nil	1.01	0.12	0.39	Nil
1951	.... 25,190	72	16	10	3	2.86	0.39	0.63	0.12
1952	.... 25,200	31	8	5	1	1.23	0.19	0.32	0.039
1953	.... 26,020	34	12	4	1	1.3	0.15	0.46	0.039
1954	.... 25,840	50	3	7	1	1.9	0.27	0.12	0.038
1955	.... 26,190	30	4	9	Nil	1.15	0.34	0.15	Nil
1956	.... 27,240	32	2	3	Nil	1.17	0.10	0.07	Nil

# Notification of Infectious Diseases during 1956

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS										TOTAL NOTIFIED		Increase or Decrease
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-65	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	— 9
Measles .. ..	2	7	3	2	5	16	..	..	1	..	..	..	— 491
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	0
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
” ” Non-Paralytic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	— 3
Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	— 16
Dysentery .. ..	2	..	1	1	3	10	2	1	5	..	..	..	— 157
Whooping Cough .. ..	6	7	14	10	9	28	2	1	..	..	..	..	— 92
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	— 1
Food Poisoning .. ..	1	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	— 7
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary), M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	4	2	5	..	+ 5
” ” F.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	3	2	..	— 3
” (Non-Pulmonary) M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	0
” ” F.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	— 6
TOTALS .. ..	12	15	21	14	20	59	6	12	21	7	8	1	— 780

Notification of Infectious Diseases during 1956

DISEASE	MONTHS												WARDS					Total M. F.			
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	North	Pelaw	West	Central	Cold- well		South	East	
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	4
Measles ..	..	1	..	..	1	3	1	2	2	..	2	24	4	7	..	3	10	5	7	16	20
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Poliomyelitis, P. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"    N.P. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	4	1	..	6	1
Dysentery ..	..	2	11	..	7	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	14	2	..	1	5	3	..	6	19
Whooping Cough ..	5	..	1	4	10	5	5	5	8	5	17	12	5	10	4	8	32	5	13	35	42
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	3
Food Poisoning ..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	6
Tuberculosis (Resp.) M.	2	1	1	2	2	..	3	..	4	..	1	2	4	5	1	3	4	1	..	18	..
"    "    F.	..	..	2	..	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	1	..	14
"    (Non-Resp.) M.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
"    "    F.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
TOTALS ..	8	7	15	8	24	20	12	10	19	8	23	42	33	30	6	21	62	21	23	83	113









